submersion of 20·36 acres of fertile tank-bed lands for new irrigation of an extent of 18·89 acres. The proposal was therefore dropped."

Sale of cultivable Government waste lands last year.

* 761 Q.—Sri G. RAMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total extent of cultivable Government waste land sold by Government last year in the State; and

(b) the total extent of land out of (a) sold to landlords, the extent sold to the landless poor and the extent sold to Harijans?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (a) & (b) The information is not available."

Elections to the minor panchayats in Guntur district.

* 762 Q.—Sri K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations by some Members of the Legislative Assembly have been received in January 1953 alleging gross and anti-democratic practices on the part of officers entrusted with the conduct of elections in minor panchayats in Guntur district, and whether the Government enquired into such cases; and if so, with what results; and

(b) what action the Government have taken to ensure free and fair elections in future?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" (a) Yes. The petitions were enquired into and the allegations were found to be baseless.

" (b) Government have no reason to think that elections to panchayats are not being conducted freely and fairly. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has issued a set of comprehensive instructions to election officers to ensure proper polling. Drastic action will be taken against any election officer for misconduct in holding elections, if such misconduct is proved after due enquiry."

Cauvery-Mettur Project Scheme in Arantangi taluk.

* 763 Q.—Sri MAHAMED SALIH MARAIKAYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a proposal to extend the Narasingha Cauvery C.M.P. Scheme south of Vellar in Arantangi taluk;

(b) whether the channel was dug by the ryots at their own cost;

(c) whether water was supplied to the tanks south of Vellar and whether water-cess was collected even though the channel was so dug by the ryots; and